



Directorate of  
Intelligence

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CIA ALA LAR 84-020

## Latin America Review (U)

9 November 1984

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9 November 1984

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**Briefs**

Jamaica: Rising Political Violence (U)

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*Articles have been coordinated as appropriate with other offices within CIA.  
Comments and queries regarding this publication may be directed to the Chief,  
Production Staff, Office of African and Latin American Analysis*

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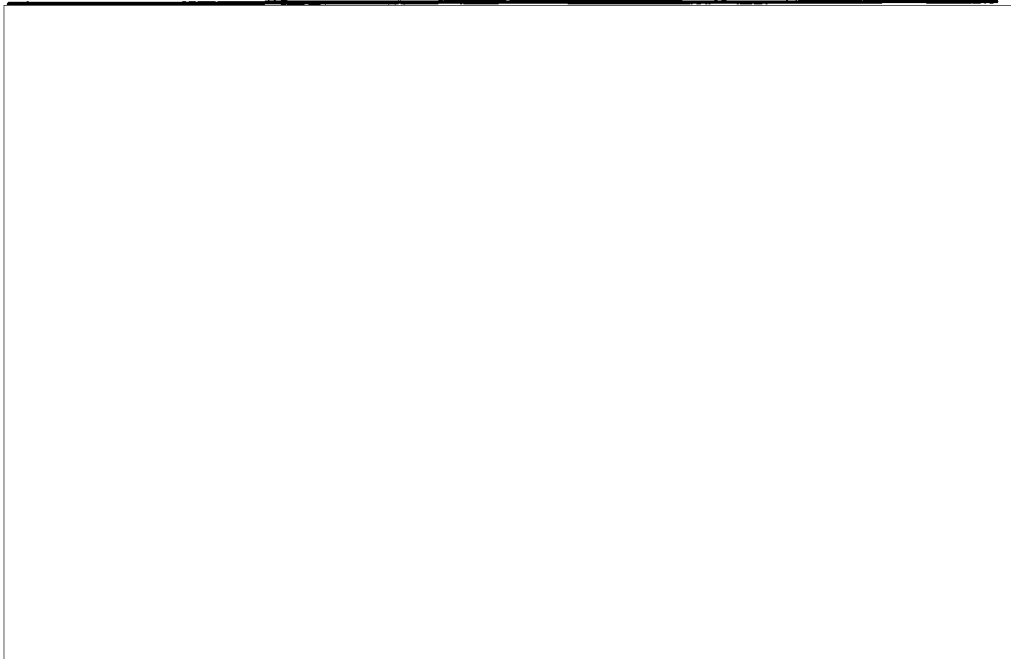
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**Latin America  
Briefs**

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**Jamaica**

**Rising Political Violence (U)**

(b)(1) A decision by the Worker's Party of Jamaica, a small Communist Party, to arm its  
(b)(3) activists in Kingston has caused increased clashes since June between leftist  
gunmen, armed gangs of the ruling party, and police. [redacted]

(b)(3) [redacted] Worker's Party chief Trevor Munroe wants to goad the  
government into declaring a state of emergency to increase pressure for new  
elections. [redacted] member of the main  
opposition party is directing small, newly created paramilitary groups to commit  
violence and is coordinating his activities with Munroe. [redacted]

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The paramilitary groups are more organized and better armed than the usual street gangs that have plagued Jamaica in recent years. Nevertheless, Prime Minister Seaga, whose popularity is badly eroded by Jamaica's economic difficulties, is unlikely to call new elections. Instead, he probably will crack down soon to curb the violence. The timing, so close to the start of the crucial tourist season in December, could badly hurt foreign exchange earnings and further deter investors.

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